



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/785,555	02/24/2004	Cary B. Cochenour	040073	8139

7590 09/18/2009
Craig G. Cochenour, Esq.
Buchanan Ingersoll PC
One Oxford Centre, 20th Floor
301 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

EXAMINER

COHEN, LEE S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3739

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

09/18/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/785,555	Applicant(s) COCHENOUR ET AL.	
	Examiner Lee S. Cohen	Art Unit 3739	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 3739

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The declaration and supporting statement filed on May 12, 2006 under 37 CFR 1.131 has been considered but is ineffective to overcome the Park reference.

Declarations submitted under 37 CFR 1.131 must be filed all individuals that constitute the inventor. Since only one of the joint inventors submitted the declaration, it fails to comply with the rule and is ineffective in overcoming the reference.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5 and 7-20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0195227) in view of Ligeras (U.S. Patent No. 5516189).

a. In regards to Claims 1 and 14, Park discloses a patient activated temperature-controlled surface or an animal bed comprising “a floor” (See Park Figure 5, element 55), “a temperature source capable of supplying either heat or cold, or both, to said floor” (See Park Figure 5, element 20; See also Paragraph [0025], Lines 1-7), “an actuator element” (See Park Paragraph [0029], Lines 1-5) and “an electric cord” (See Park Figure 3, element 25).

Art Unit: 3739

Park does not disclose to use of “non-direct electrical current from an electric utility”. Attention is directed to the Ligeras reference, which in an analogous field of endeavor discloses, “wiring is provided, fully within the capability of those presently skilled in the electrical connection arts, so that the switch 22 converts from AC to DC (and in a reverse direction) in order to accommodate both AC power and plug 24, and DC power and plug 26” (See Ligeras Figures 1 and 4, References 24 and 26; see also column 2, lines 44-51). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the device of Park with the ability to utilize electrical current from an AC power source because the device could be used in the home where it would be preferable to use an AC power source.

b. In regards to Claim 2, Park in view of Ligeras discloses a patient activated temperature-controlled surface (See Claim 1 Rejection). Park further discloses “said actuator element is capable of allowing or preventing the flow of said non-direct electrical current to said temperature source” (See Park Figure 1, element 23; see also Paragraph [0029]). It is the Examiner’s position that the actuator element of Park would be capable of operating to allow or prevent the flow of non-direct current as shown in the Ligeras reference.

c. In regards to Claim 3, Park in view of Ligeras discloses a patient activated temperature-controlled surface (See Claim 1 Rejection). Park does not disclose, “said electrical cord is connected to an electric utility supplying alternating current”. Attention is directed to the Ligeras reference, which in an analogous field of endeavor discloses the use of an electrical cord in an alternating current outlet (See Ligeras Figure 4, element

Art Unit: 3739

24). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the device of Park with the ability to utilize electrical current from an AC power source because the device could be used in the home where it would be preferable to use an AC power source.

d. In regards to Claim 4, Park in view of Ligeras discloses a patient activated temperature-controlled surface (See Claim 1 Rejection). Park further discloses “wherein said temperature source is located in juxtaposition to said floor, and wherein said floor allows said heat or cold to pass from said temperature source through said floor and wherein said actuator element is located in juxtaposition to said floor” (See Park, Figures 2 and 5).

e. In regards to Claim 5, Park in view of Ligeras discloses a patient activated temperature-controlled surface (See Claim 1 Rejection). Park further discloses, “wherein said actuator element provides an electrical bias” (See Park, Figure 1). It is the Examiner’s position that electrical bias is equivalent to “open circuit”.

f. In regards to Claim 7, Park in view of Ligeras discloses a patient activated temperature-controlled surface (See Claim 1 Rejection). Park further discloses, “wherein said actuator element is a pressure sensitive switch” (See Park Paragraph [0020], Lines 4-5).

g. In regards to Claim 8, Park in view of Ligeras discloses a patient activated temperature-controlled surface (See Claim 7 Rejection). Park further discloses, “wherein said switch is a momentary switch” (See Park Paragraph [0029], Lines 1-5; See also Paragraphs [0034] and [0035]).

Art Unit: 3739

h. In regards to Claim 9, Park in view of Ligeras discloses a patient activated temperature-controlled surface (See Claim 4 Rejection). Park further discloses, “wherein said temperature source is located beneath said floor” (See Park Figure 5, Reference 20).

i. In regards to Claim 10, Park in view of Ligeras discloses a patient activated temperature-controlled surface (See Claim 1 Rejection). Park further discloses, “wherein said floor is a bed for accommodating the resting of a patient” (See Park Paragraph [0037], Lines 1-2).

j. In regards to Claim 11, Park in view of Ligeras discloses a patient activated temperature-controlled surface (See Claim 10 Rejection). Park further discloses, “wherein said bed is surrounded by at least one wall” (See Park Figure 5, Reference to upright seat portion).

k. In regards to Claim 12, Park in view of Ligeras discloses a patient activated temperature-controlled surface (See Claim 11 Rejection). Park further discloses, “wherein said wall has at least one opening that allows for the ingress and egress of the patient in and out of said bed” (See Park, Figure 5, Reference to upright seat portion – Examiner reads lack of wall on three sides of cushion to be “at least one opening that allows for the ingress and egress of the patient”).

l. In regards to Claim 13, Park in view of Ligeras discloses a patient activated temperature-controlled surface (See Claim 1 Rejection). Park further discloses, “wherein said temperature source includes an adjustable thermostat” (See Park, Figure 1, Reference 15; See also Paragraph [0027], Lines 1-4).

Art Unit: 3739

m. In regards to Claims 15-20, the method steps of providing comfort to a patient are considered obvious in the operation of the device disclosed by Park in view of Ligeras.

Park does not disclose to use of “non-direct electrical current from an electric utility”.

Attention is directed to the Ligeras reference, which in an analogous field of endeavor discloses, “wiring is provided, fully within the capability of those presently skilled in the electrical connection arts, so that the switch 22 converts from AC to DC (and in a reverse direction) in order to accommodate both AC power and plug 24, and DC power and plug 26” (See Ligeras Figures 1 and 4, References 24 and 26; see also column 2, lines 44-51). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the device of Park with the ability to utilize electrical current from an AC power source because the device could be used in the home where it would be preferable to use an AC power source.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0195227) in view of Ligeras (U.S. Patent No. 5516189) as applied to claims 1-5 and 7-20 above, and further in view of Goldston et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5303485).

In regards to Claim 6, Park in view of Ligeras discloses a patient activated temperature controlled surface (See Claim 1 Rejection). Park in view of Ligeras does not disclose, “wherein said actuator element is a transistor”. Attention is directed to Goldston et al. reference, which provides an alternative solution to a pressure sensitive switch, discloses the use of a transistor in place of a pressure sensitive switch (See Goldston et al., Column 9, Lines 4-15). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify the Park in

Art Unit: 3739

view of Ligeras device with the teaching of Goldston et al. to provide a transistor as the actuator to provide a more sophisticated switching means responsive to the presence or absence of the weight of a patient.

Claims 1-5, 7-10, 13-17, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Owen et al (U.S. Pat. No. U.S 6,189,487) in view of Fristedt et al (WO 02/06083/US 7,134,715). Owen et al disclose the basic animal bed including a floor, heating element, and electrical cord. The reference fails to disclose structure for automatic activation effected by the weight of the animal. Fristedt et al disclose a similar device that includes a heating device and an occupant sensor (3) to activate the heating device (column 6, lines 15-23). The heating device also includes a thermostat to control the heating device. (column 4, line 33+). Given this teaching, it would have been obvious to the skilled artisan to add an actuator element, including a thermostat, to the animal bed of Owen et al to automatically control the heating device since a predictable result would ensue. Note, the WO publication date of Fristedt et al is January 24, 2002.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Owen et al (6,189,487) in view of Fristedt et al (WO 02/06083/US 7,134,715) as applied to claims 1 above, and further in view of Smoczynski (GB 2,263,396) and Goldston et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5303485). The combination fails to disclose the use of the specific actuator. Smoczynski discloses a simialar seat device as Fristedt et al and which includes a microswitch (33). Given this teaching, it would have been obvious to use such a switch in the combination since a predictable result would ensue. Further, Goldston et al. reference, which provides an alternative solution to a pressure sensitive switch, discloses the use of a transistor in place of a pressure

Art Unit: 3739

sensitive switch (See Goldston et al., Column 9, Lines 4-15). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to provide a transistor as the actuator to provide a more sophisticated switching means responsive to the presence or absence of the weight of a patient.

Claims 11, 12, 18, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Owen et al (6,189,487) in view of Fristedt et al (WO 02/06083/US 7,134,715) as applied to claims 10 and 17 above, and further in view of Peebles et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,237,531). The combination fails to disclose the specific structure of the animal bed including a wall and opening. Such structure is conventional in the art as disclosed by Peebles et al as shown in Figures 1 and 2. Given this teaching, it would have been obvious to form the animal bed of Owen et al with such features since a predictable result would ensue.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lee S. Cohen whose telephone number is 571-272-4763. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00-3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda Dvorak can be reached on 571-272-4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3739

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Lee S. Cohen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3739

/Lee S. Cohen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3739
September 16, 2009